

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

intended to adopt this course in the event of the Romans compelling the fathers to choose a Roman or an Italian, and that he thinks that the majority of the Sacred College favoured the candidature of the Cardinal of Viviers.¹ But, a few days before the conclave, Tommaso Petra told Fra Raimondo that he saw that almost all the cardinals had agreed to elect the Archbishop of Bari.² This is questionable. There seems, however, little doubt that, in the event of their being unable, through internal dissensions or external pressure, to carry the election of their own candidate, the French and Limousin cardinals (and probably, though this is more uncertain, three of the four Italians) had contemplated the possibility of their agreeing upon the Archbishop of Bari. The Clementine position is that this course was only to be adopted in case the Sacred College was in danger and unable to proceed to a free election, while the Urbanists declare that the split between the two factions had secured his election before the conclave met.

The cardinals entered the conclave on the late afternoon of the Wednesday in Passion Week, April 7. Our knowledge of what happened all comes from the sworn testimonies and depositions of contemporaries and eye-witnesses, even of those who played leading parts in the events of that night and the following day. Nevertheless, it is impossible to find out the absolute truth of what brought about the temporary dissolution of the Catholic world. These testimonies and depositions were taken many months later, when the deadliest passions had been roused on either side, and the memories of the actors sharpened or distorted by the urgent need of proving their own party in the right. The clearest and fullest details by witnesses on the side of the Roman claimant are flatly contradicted by details, equally clear and full, by witnesses on behalf of Avignon.⁸

¹ Cf. Alfonso's testimony, in Raynaldus, vii. p. 377, with that of Cardinal de Luna, in A. Sorbelli, Appendix to St. Vincent Ferrer's *De Moderno Eccksiæ ScAismate*, pp. 144, 245.

² Valois, I. pp. 30, 31.

⁸ The depositions of Bishop Tommaso of Lucera, given by Muratori (*Rer*,